SUPERGIRL
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SUPERGIRL
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NO. 3
FEB.
30672
WHAT'S THE GOOD OF BEING A SUPERGIRL HELPING EVERYONE IF I CAN'T EVEN GET A DATE!
SUPERGIRL UNCOVERS--
"THE GARDEN OF DEATH!"
ALSO
THE AMAZING ZATANNA IN A SURPRISE FEATURE!!

A PERFECT CRIME IS BEING COMMITTED RIGHT NOW!
AND UNLESS MY X-RAY VISION CAN UNCOVER THE SECRET CLUE HIDDEN ON THIS BODY--
I'LL BE HELPLESS TO STOP IT!
SUPERGIRL
MORGUE
CITY
Story: CARY BATES
Art: ARTIE SAAF & VINCE COLLETTA

LIKE ANY GIRL STARTING OUT IN COLLEGE, LINDA DANVERS SUFFERS HER SHARE OF PERSONAL PROBLEMS AND HEARTBREAK! BUT UNLIKE ANY OF HER CLASSMATES, LINDA IS SECRETLY THE SENSATIONAL SUPERGIRL--ALWAYS READY TO RESCUE A FRIEND IN TROUBLE! AND THIS TIME, HER HELPING HAND INTRODUCES HER TO...

"THE GARDEN OF DEATH"

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AMID FEBRUARY'S FROSTY CHILL, EXCITEMENT RUNS HIGH AMONG THE GIRLS ATTENDING VANDYRE UNIVERSITY...
WOW! GUESS WHO JUST ASKED ME TO THE BIG VALENTINE'S DAY FESTIVAL DANCE -- MIKE STANTON!
THAT BEAUTIFUL BASKETBALL STAR? I'D BE ENVYING YOU -- IF I WEREN'T ALREADY SO CRAZY ABOUT MY OWN DATE -- LENNIE DALE!

THE EXCITED VOICES CAME FROM THE DORM -- AND LINDA DANVERS' ROOMMATES -- TERRI, AND SABRA, AN ISRAELI EXCHANGE STUDENT, AND EX-ARMY OFFICER...
HOW ABOUT THAT THEATRICAL ROOMMATE OF OURS? HAS SHE STOPPED HER REHEARSALS LONG ENOUGH TO LINE UP A DATE FOR THE DANCE?
I THINK BOB LEWIS IS TAKING LINDA, TERRI! HE CALLED AND ASKED WHERE SHE WAS THIS AFTERNOON!
Love, Wood

MEANWHILE AT THE SCHOOL OF DRAMA...
"WHAT SHALL I SWEAR BY?"
"DO NOT SWEAR AT ALL; OR IF THOU WILT, SWEAR BY THY GRACIOUS SELF..."
SHOULD'VE KNOWN LINDA WOULD BE HERE! METHINKS FAIR "JULIET" HAS JILTED ME FOR THE LAST TIME!

... AND AFTER REHEARSAL...
...LINDA-THIS IS THE THIRD TIME YOU'VE STOOD ME UP ON A DATE... BECAUSE OF REHEARSALS!
B-BUT BOB, I COULDN'T JUST --
2

YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT THE VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE FESTIVAL! I'M GOING TO FIND ANOTHER GIRL TO TAKE...! MAYBE YOU AND "ROMEO" OUGHTTA GO INSTEAD!
OOPS... I JUST LOST A TERRIFIC DATE! AND I WAS SO ANXIOUS TO HAVE BOB REALLY DIG ME...

COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING THAT WALK-OFF SCENE, LINDA! SEEMS YOU AND I HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, FRANKIE?
MY GIRL MARY ANN JUST CALLED ME... AND SAID OUR DATE ON VALENTINE'S DAY IS OFF!
SHE WAS CRYING OVER THE PHONE... I NEVER HEARD HER SOUND SO UPSET! BUT SHE WON'T TELL ME WHAT'S WRONG!
I'LL TRY TO FIND OUT!
SOON AS LINDA WALKS TOWARD HER DORM...
IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR MY SUPER-HEARING TO ZERO-IN ON THE SOURCE OF THAT SOBBING--
AND MY X-RAY VISION SHOWS MARY ANN IN HER ROOM... SHEDDING TEARS BY THE QUART!
SHE MIGHT NOT CONFIDE TO LINDA DANVERS--
BUT I THINK I'VE GOT A BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING THROUGH TO HER--
-- AS SUPERGIRL!
3

A MOMENT LATER, MARY ANN BROOKS' MOIST EYES BLINK AWAY THE TEARS TO SEE...
S-SUPERGIRL?
DOESN'T TAKE ANY SUPER-POWERS TO TELL YOU'RE GOING THRU A BAD SCENE!
WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?
Peace
WHOOOSH

BUT BEFORE THE SORROW-STRUCK GIRL CAN ANSWER --A THIRD VOICE COMES INTO THE ROOM--AN IMPERSONAL, GRIM VOICE...
"...AND THE AUTHORITIES SAY ALBERT BROOKS IS BEING CHARGED WITH FIRST-DEGREE MURDER... BECAUSE OF POSITIVE PROOF THAT HE KILLED THE BIG-TIME GANGSTER "LUCKY COIN" LACEY!
ALBERT BROOKS?
MARY, DOES THAT MEAN...?

YES, YES! SO BE THAT'S MY FATHER THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT!

"...ALBERT BROOKS IS A WELL KNOWN HORTICULTURIST WHO MAINTAINS A PRIZE-WINNING EXOTIC GARDEN ON HIS ESTATE!
"LUCKY COIN" LACEY'S BODY WAS FOUND HERE IN THE GARDEN THIS AFTERNOON...

I'M INNOCENT! INNOCENT! INNOCENT!
"...THE POLICE ARRESTED THE ALLEGED MURDERER JUST A FEW HOURS LATER! BROOKS SEEMED STUNNED, IN SHOCK!
OFFICIALS SAY THE EVIDENCE IS STACKED SOLID, AGAINST HIM.
4

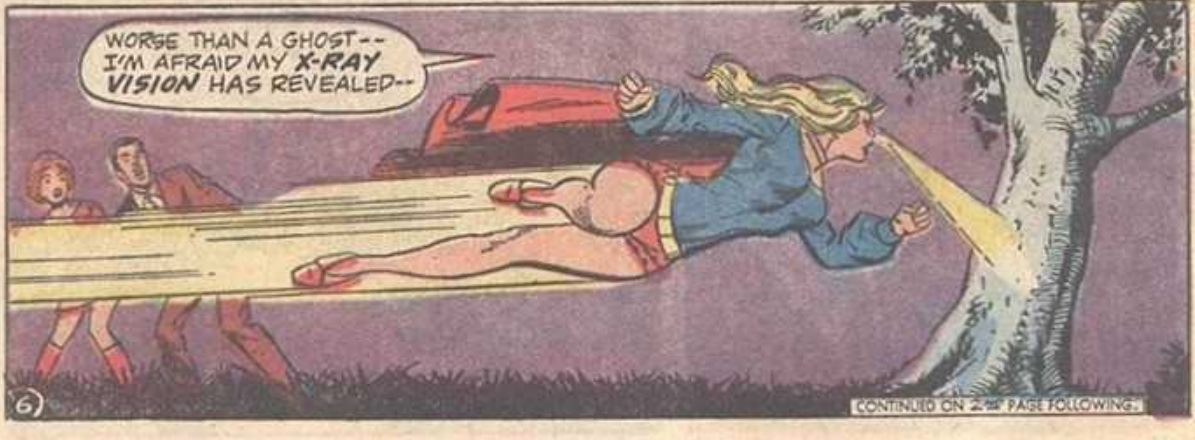
SOBS IT HAS TO BE A MISTAKE... MY FATHER COULDN'T BE A MURDERER, SUPERGIRL... MY FATHER WAS BOTH MOTHER AND FATHER TO ME AFTER MY MOTHER DIED! HE RAISED ME! HE COULDN'T HARM ANYONE...!
MARY'S SO POSITIVE THAT HER FATHER IS INNOCENT!
W-WHERE ARE WE GOING?
TO YOUR FATHER'S ESTATE!
THAT WAS A LIVE TV BROADCAST... SO THE AUTHORITIES MUST STILL BE ON THE SCENE!
SUPERGIRL AND MARY ZOOM OVER PICTURESQUE TERRAIN TOWARD MARY'S HOUSE...
IF YOUR FATHER HAS BEEN WRONGLY ACCUSED...MAYBE I CAN USE MY SUPERPOWERS TO FIND EVIDENCE TO CLEAR HIM!
OH, SUPERGIRL... IF ONLY YOU COULD, I WOULD BE SO VERY GRATEFUL...
WHERE HEART BEATS LATER...
SUPERGIRL!
THANKS, ANYWAY, BUT WE DON'T NEED HELP THIS TIME! THIS CASE IS TIGHTER THAN A DEAD MAN'S FIST STIFFENED IN RIGOR MORTIS!
PERHAPS...
...BUT WILL YOU RUN THROUGH THE DETAILS ONCE MORE FOR ME? IT'S VERY IMPORTANT!
IT WON'T HELP, SUPERGIRL-- BUT...
"BROOKS WAS SPONSORING A FORMAL EXHIBITION OF HIS GARDEN THIS MORNING FOR BOTANY EXPERTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD..."
WHAT AN EXTRAORDINARY HYBRID PLANT!
BROOKS IS A GENIUS!
5

"SUDDENLY, THE BOTANISTS MADE A STARTLING DISCOVERY..."
I SWEAR... I DON'T KNOW HOW THAT COFFIN GOT THERE!
COME NOW, MR. BROOKS! YOU CULTIVATE THIS GARDEN EVERY DAY WITH YOUR OWN HANDS!
HOW COULD YOU NOT KNOW?
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO THE POLICE!

THE DETECTIVE FINISHES HIS ACCOUNT WITH...
BUT THIS IS THE CLINCHER!
UPON EXAMINATION WE FOUND THIS DAGGER IN LACEY'S CHEST--
WITH BROOKS' FINGER-PRINTS ALL OVER IT!

A LIE! IT'S ALL A LIE!
I'M SORRY, MISS BROOKS! JUST DOING MY JOB!

SUPERGIRL-- WHAT'S WRONG?
YOUR FACE LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST!


WORSE THAN A GHOST-- I'M AFRAID MY X-RAY VISION HAS REVEALED--
6
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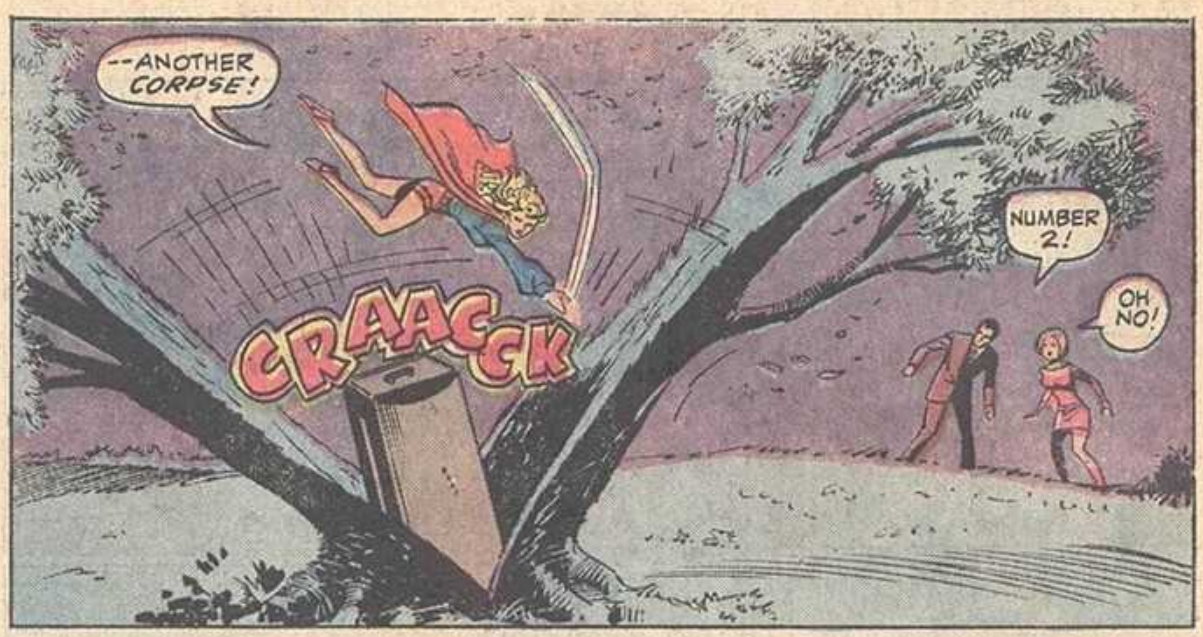
--ANOTHER CORPSE!
CRAACCK
NUMBER 2!
OH NO!

LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A MULTIPLE MURDER ON OUR HANDS!
SUPERGIRL, WILL YOU MAKE A COMPLETE X-RAY SEARCH OF BROOKS' GROUNDS AND ESTATE?
I-I'LL HAVE TO-!

GRIMLY, THE MAID OF MIGHT THOROUGHLY SCANS THE PROPERTY --
THREE! HOW MANY MORE?
CRUNCH!

... AND STILL ANOTHER...
THIS IS-- THE LAST!

FINALLY, AFTER THE QUARTET OF CASKETS HAS BEEN GATHERED TOGETHER...
THE OTHER THREE VICTIMS WERE ALSO CRIMINALS LIKE "LUCKY COIN". IT'S DEFINITELY A GANG-LAND SLAYING! BROOKS IS A CARETAKER OF CORPSES—OR WORSE!
SOMETHING ABOUT "LUCKY'S" BODY BOTHERS ME... BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT!
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO HELP MY FATHER, SUPERGIRL! SOB! INSTEAD YOU'VE PINNED HIM TO THREE MORE MURDERS!
I-I HAD TO UNCOVER THE BODIES, MARY ANN! IT WAS MY DUTY!
B-BECAUSE OF YOU, SUPERGIRL- MY FATHER DOESN'T HAVE A PRAYER! I--I NEVER WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN! NEVER! NEVER! NEVER!
CHOKE MARY MUST HATE ME MORE THAN ANY OTHER PERSON ON EARTH RIGHT NOW!
AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IN AN UNDERGROUND HIDEAWAY...
WELL, MY FRIEND, PHASE ONE OF YOUR MASTER PLAN WENT WITHOUT A HITCH! BUT WE DIDN'T FIGURE ON SUPERGIRL!
I DID! NOW THE SUCCESS OF PHASE TWO IS UP TO HER! WE GOT IT MADE, DOC!
8

THE NEXT DAY, A RED-AND BLUE GARBED VISITOR CONFERS WITH THE MURDER SUSPECT IN HIS MAXIMUM SECURITY CELL...
SUPERGIRL - THE AUTOPSIES SHOWED LACEY AND THE OTHER CROOKS WERE KILLED ABOUT 24 HOURS BEFORE MY GARDEN EXHIBITION!
BUT THE DAY BEFORE I WAS WITH A WITNESS WHO'LL PROVE I WASN'T THERE!
WONDERFUL! WHO IS HE? WHERE IS HE? YOU'VE TOLD THE POLICE, OF COURSE?
YES-- BUT THEY CAN'T FIND HIM!
HE'S VIC MASON! A GRADUATE STUDENT OF MINE! HE AND I WERE ON A BOTANY-EXPEDITION ON MT. TAYLOR! HE WAS SUPPOSED TO LEAVE A FEW HOURS LATER ... BUT HE NEVER CAME OUT!
YOUR ONLY ALIBI MISSING!
MOMENTS LATER...
WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TRY IS A REAL LONG SHOT... BUT WITH THE ODDS SO AGAINST BROOKS, HE HAS NOTHING TO LOSE...
AND MY GAMBLE MAY SAVE TWO LIVES!
SOON, THE MIGHTIEST GIRL ON EARTH METHODICALLY SPIRALS OVER MT. TAYLOR AT EYE-BLURRING SUPER-SPEED...
BY ZOOMING OVER THE MOUNTAIN IN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLES --
ALWAYS SCANNING BELOW WITH TELESCOPIC VISION--
NOT EVEN ONE ROCK WILL ESCAPE THE SCRUTINY OF MY X-RAY EYES!
AND THEN...
?!? HOW CAN I BE SEEING A MIRAGE?
AN OPTICAL ILLUSION LIKE THAT MIGHT FOOL SOME-ONE ELSE!
BUT NOT MY SUPER-VISION!
9

SO IT MUST BE REAL!
A CLUSTER OF FREAK VEGETATION LIKE THIS MIGHT BE JUST THE PLACE TO FIND THE LOST BOTANIST!
SUPERGIRL?
OUT HERE?
I MUST BE SEEING A MIRACLE!
NO-- I'M FOR REAL, VIC!
SUDDENLY, STARTLINGLY...
LOOK OUT!
GREAT KRYPTON! A GIANT VENUS FLY-TRAP! A MAN-EATING PLANT!
OH NO... TOO LATE! IT'S GOT HER!
FOR A TORTUOUS MOMENT, THE GHASTLY GREEN MONSTER SWAYS UPRIGHT ON ITS MASSIVE STALK, TRYING TO DIGEST ITS SUPER-LUNCH...
S-SUPERGIRL'S BEEN SWALLOWED ALIVE... ALL BECAUSE OF ME!

UNEXPECTEDLY--
BR-I-I-P!
THIS BRUTE MAY BECOME A VEGETARIAN NOW!
TRYING TO CHOMP DOWN ON MY INVULNERABLE BODY WOULD RUIN THE APPETITE OF ANY MEAT-EATER!

VANQUISHED, THE MAMMOTH PLANT COWERS IN FRIGHT AS SUPERGIRL RESUMES HER RESCUE...
H-HOW DID YOU POSSIBLY KNOW I WAS HERE?
THANKS TO YOUR COLLEAGUE, ALBERT BROOKS!
NOW YOU'LL HELP HIM IN RETURN! I'LL EXPLAIN ON THE WAY!

BY NIGHTFALL, THE STUDENT'S STORY HAD CORROBORATED BROOKS' ALIBI AND ALL CHARGES WERE DROPPED...
...NOW THE LIEUTENANT IS SURE MY FINGERPRINTS ON THE DAGGER WERE PLANTED!
BUT WHY WAS I FRAMED... AND WHO'S THE REAL MURDERER?
GOOD QUESTIONS-- WITH NO ANSWERS YET!
FOR THE MOMENT-- I'LL FLY YOU HOME!

AN ULTRA-SWIFT FLIGHT TO BROOKS' ESTATE ON THE BAY, AND...
MARY ANN ISN'T HERE YET... BUT I'M SURE SHE'LL RUSH HOME WHEN SHE HEARS ABOUT MY RELEASE! THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, SUPERGIRL!
HOPE MARY ANN'S OKAY! SHE WAS SO UPSET THIS MORNING--!

AND AT THAT MOMENT...
PHASE TWO--SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED, DOC! BROOKS HAS BEEN EXONERATED! HE CAN'T BE SUSPECTED AGAIN!
THANKS TO SUPERGIRL'S UNWITTING HELP! YOUR PLAN HAS BEEN FAULTLESS ALL THE WAY!
TIME TO SNATCH OUR PRIZE PATIENT-- FOR PHASE THREE!

LATER, INSIDE THE BROOKS MANSION... BROOKS IS THE VICTIM OF—
UHHH...

MEANWHILE, A TROUBLED GIRL OF STEEL PONDERS AT THE CITY MORGUE...
I'M STILL DISTURBED ABOUT LUCKY COIN LACEY'S DEATH! ALL OF HIS PERSONAL POSSESSIONS ARE SPREAD OUT ON THE TABLE!
THEY'RE LIKE THE PIECES OF A JIGSAW PUZZLE... BUT I'M SURE ONE OF THEM DOESN'T FIT!

HIS WALLET... AN EGOTISTICAL SNAPSHOT OF HIMSELF... HIS WRISTWATCH... HIS FAMOUS LUCKY LEAD COIN... HIS--
THE COIN! THAT'S THE CLUE I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!

MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT!
WHAT I HAD SECRETLY SUSPECTED ALL ALONG IS TRUE!
GOT TO GO BACK TO THE GARDEN OF DEATH!

BUT AFTER ZOOMING BACK TO THE HORTICULTURIST'S ESTATE...
HELP! HELP!
SOMEONE IN THAT SAILBOAT IS IN BIG TROUBLE!

AS POWERFUL TELESCOPIC EYES GAZE OUT OVER THE BAY...
IT'S... MARY ANN!! ON HER SINKING SAILBOAT!
12

AND AT THE SAME TIME IN THE BROOKS' BASEMENT...
WH- WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO D-DO?
PHASE THREE OF THE PERFECT CRIME, MR. BROOKS!
MY CRIME!

THE COIN-FLIPPING... THAT PIN-STRIPE SUIT... JUST LIKE THE PICTURES I SAW OF LUCKY COIN LACEY! BUT-HE'S DEAD!!
CORRECTION--AN EXACT DOUBLE OF ME IS DEAD! THANKS TO THE DOC--ONE OF THE GREATEST PLASTIC SURGEONS IN THE WORLD! HE HAS NO LICENSE TO PRACTICE BUT HE IS FOR ME!

THE PLAN IS SIMPLE BUT BRILLIANT! MR. LACEY LIQUIDATED FOUR SMALL-TIME HOODS... THEN I TRANSFORMED ONE OF THEM INTO A DOUBLE OF HIM!
I HAD HIM INCLUDE EVERYTHING... EVEN A LEAD COIN!
I FRAMED YOU FOR THE MURDERS... KNOWING SUPERGIRL WOULD PROVE YOU INNOCENT, BROOKS!

MEANTIME, I OPERATED ON LUCKY COIN LACEY MAKING HIM AN EXACT DOUBLE OF YOU, MR. BROOKS!
YEAH... AND AS SOON AS THE DOC MAKES SURE THE MATCH IS PERFECT, YOU GET A COFFIN ALL FOR YOURSELF, BROOKS!

MEANWHILE--AMID A CHURNING TEMPEST OF SWIRLING BAY WATERS)...
GET BACK, SUPERGIRL!
I'D RATHER DIE THAN BE SAVED BY YOU--AFTER YOU CONDEMNED MY FATHER!
MARY'S HYSTERICAL... STILL CONVINCED I BETRAYED HER!
13

A SUPER-SPEED COUNTER-WHIRL IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION WILL TRANSFORM THIS DEADLY WATERSPOUT INTO HARMLESS SELTZER!
AND JUST AS THE SPLINTERED SAILBOAT SLIDES INTO THE FROTHY DEEP...
LET GO OF ME!
STRUGGLE IF YOU WANT, MARY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO LISTEN TO MY STORY WHILE I FLY YOU HOME!
MEANWHILE...
IT'S BEAUTIFUL, LUCKY... MY BEST WORK YET! NOT EVEN BROOKS' OWN MOTHER COULD TELL YOUR FACES APART! AND YOUR VOICE IS LIKE HIS SINCE THE VOCAL CHORD OPERATION!
FANTASTIC, DOC! NOW I'LL BE BROOKS FROM NOW ON!
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT!
YEAH? EVERYONE THINKS LUCKY COIN LACEY IS DEAD... AND EVERYONE KNOWS SUPERGIRL CLEARED YOU OF THE CRIME!
SO WHO'D EVER SUSPECT A DEAD MAN TO ASSUME THE IDENTITY OF A MAN ACCUSED OF HIS MURDER, --AND EXONERATED!
NOW I RESUME MY RACKETS, SAFE FROM ALL THE ENEMIES WHO WANTED ME RUBBED OUT! BUT THERE CAN'T BE TWO OF US...SO YOU'RE OUT!!
QUICK-FIRE BLASTS OF GUNFIRE ECHO THROUGH THE BASEMENT, BUT...
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
HUH? I PUMPED THREE SLUGS INTO YOU POINT-BLANK!! HOW COME YOU'RE STILL BREATHIN'!?
H

SMASH!
BECAUSE I MELTED YOUR BULLETS FROM ABOVE WITH MY HEAT VISION!
SUPERGIRL!
PARDON ME FOR JUST A MOMENT, PLEASE!
LEAVING SO SOON--?
OOOFF!
STAY AWHILE-- THE PARTY'S JUST STARTING!
I'M THE REAL ALBERT BROOKS, SUPERGIRL!
HE'S LUCKY COIN LACEY!
HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME-- UNTIL I GOT THE DROP ON HIM!
HE'S LYING! HE'S LUCKY COIN LACEY!
YOUR LUCK JUST RAN OUT-LUCKY COIN LACEY!
WH-WHAT GAVE ME AWAY?
15

THE SAME SLIP-UP THAT TIPPED ME OFF YOUR "CORPSE" WAS A FAKE!
TWENTY YEARS OF FLIPPING A LEAD DOLLAR HAD TO LEAVE FAINT METALLIC RESIDUE ON YOUR FINGERS--
A RESIDUE THAT WAS MISSING FROM THE BODY I SAW IN THE MORGUE!
AND I THOUGHT I HAD EVERY ANGLE COVERED!
THE LUCKY COIN YOU CARRIED AROUND ALL THESE YEARS TURNED OUT TO BE A JINX!
MARY ANN! WHERE DID YOU RUN OFF TO?
SUPERGIRL RESCUED ME, AND TOLD ME THE WHOLE STORY!
A FEW DAYS LATER, BACK AT VANDYRE COLLEGE-- THE NIGHT OF THE VALENTINE'S DAY FESTIVAL...
I'M SURE GLAD LINDA DANVERS CONTACTED SUPERGIRL, SO SHE COULD HELP YOU!
YOU'RE GLAD? IF IT WEREN'T FOR SUPERGIRL I WOULDN'T BE ALIVE... NEITHER WOULD MY FATHER OR HIS COLLEAGUE!
WONDER HOW A SUPER-HEROINE SPENDS HER HOLIDAY!
Valentine Dance!
THE ANSWER WOULD SHUDDER YOUR HEART, MARY ANN--FOR YOU'D SEE THE ONLY GIRL ON CAMPUS WITHOUT A DATE...
SNIFFF--I'M A REAL WINNER WHEN IT COMES TO SOLVING OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS--
BUT WHY AM I ALWAYS SUCH A LOSER AT SOLVING MY OWN!
SOME SUPERGIRL! I LOST MY DATE!
16

Dear Editor:

There are hardly any words I can use to describe how I feel about SUPERGIRL in her own magazine. After being introduced in ACTION #252, she worked her way forward so that, at times, she was the star of that mag. In 1969, she became the star feature in ADVENTURE. While in that magazine, she became the first heroine (or hero) to have a whole wardrobe of crime-fighting suits. Now she is to have her own magazine. No other heroine (or hero) had to work so hard to receive her own book.

I hope you will have her team up with other heroes in WORLD'S FINEST and BRAVE AND BOLD. And she should have her own Fortress of Solitude. After quitting her job in ADVENTURE #424, I hope she finds a new one, as well as a new boyfriend.

Good luck, SG!

Scott Taylor
Rockville, Indiana

Dear Scott:

Only Bob Kanigher knows what's in store for our super-powered lass . . . and he's not talking!

Dear Editor:

Please grant one of my wishes and I'll be satisfied. First and foremost: Let the SUPERGIRL magazine contain stories as exciting as her finale in ADVENTURE. "Crypt of the Frozen Graves" is the *best* SG saga to date. Kara appears to be as super as ever, and at the same time, she's just like a real human being, able to be lost in her thoughts. She can love, and she can hate (check page 11 for the latter). Her foe isn't some alien with green skin, but a more up-to-date syndicate of crime. SUPERGIRL finds it isn't easy to destroy crime without losing something . . . or someone . . . in the process. Steve Skeates, congratulations!

And who said a down-to-earth situation doesn't provide action for our super-gal? Just look at her, meeting Bruce Ryan, saving him and other persons, doing the 'ghost' bit, fighting with Nasty, being tortured, and *this* only as Linda Danvers!

De Zuniga and Oksner illustrated the story quite well, and it was a pleasant change from the three previous Sekowsky-pencilled issues.

Now, if you could only grant my wish . . .

Allan Palmer
Ville Laval, Quebec

Dear Allan:

We've got promises from all concerned with SG that "Crypt of the Frozen Graves" is only the beginning of what will be one of the most exciting chapters in super-heroine history!

Dear Editor:

"Crypt of the Frozen Graves" was a good story, but it was 'one of those.' You're probably muttering, 'what is *one of those?*' A 'one of those' stories is one built around a cover design. I mean, until I got to page 14, this story looked like an innocent heroine vs. mobster story. Then, on page 14 come mad scientists, crazy machines, etc. Well, I still say it was a good story, but it could've been better if the science fiction angle were not added.

I do hope, though, that Steve Skeates and Tony De Zuniga will be the permanent SG team. Tony's pencils are perfect for the Maid of Night. Bob Oksner made her look like a fourteen-year-old, and Kurt Schaffenberger made her SUPERMAN's double. Say, what ever happened to Kurt?

Joe Peluso
Brooklyn, New York

Dear Joe:

Kurt is hard at work doing each and every issue of the new JIMMY OLSEN, while SUPERGIRL is in the capable hands of Art Saaf and Vince Colletta.

Our address is:
SUPER FE-MAIL
National Periodical Publ.
909 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022

ZATANNA THE MAGICIAN
*HSIF HSINAV!
?!? WHAT SORT OF TRICK IS THAT??
NOT MINE, THAT'S FOR SURE!
THERE'S SOME OTHER POWER AT WORK HERE BESIDES MY MAGIC!
POWER MIGHTIER THAN MY OWN!
*VANISH FISH!
A GOOD MAGICIAN NEVER REVEALS HER SECRETS TO ANYONE, AND ALWAYS WORKS TO KEEP HER AUDIENCE SURPRISED! SO IT WAS WITH THE BEWITCHING ZATANNA -- UNTIL THE DAY WHEN ALL THE SURPRISES WERE ON HER!

R-167

"CURSE of the PHANTOM HECKLER!"

Story: CARY BATES — Art: DON HECK

ONE DAY, AT THE GOTHIC LANDMARK THAT IS KNOWN AS SHADOWCREST MANSION...
SRETTEL ESIRA! SEPOLEVNE NEPO!*
THE MAIL SURE PILED UP THE WEEK I WAS AWAY PERFORMING IN EUROPE!
*LETTERS ARISE! ENVELOPES OPEN!
NO, YOUR EYES DON'T DECEIVE YOU, READERS--

--THE AMAZING MAGICIAN ZATANNA CAN READ HER MAIL WITHOUT LIFTING A FINGER--SIMPLY BY RECITING A MYSTIC COMMAND BACKWARD...
OH! THIS IS A LETTER FROM MY FRIEND LINDA DANVERS... ASKING ME TO PUT ON A MAGIC SHOW FOR THE KIDS AT HER FIRST "ALMA MATER"--MIDVILLE ORPHANAGE!*
*YEARS AGO, WHEN SHE FIRST ARRIVED ON EARTH... LINDA (SUPERGIRL) LIVED AT THE ORPHANAGE UNTIL SHE WAS ADOPTED!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

ULP! THEY'RE EXPECTING ME AT NOON ON THE 24TH--
THAT'S TODAY!
JUST ENOUGH TIME FOR ME TO HIDE A FEW TRICKS UP MY SLEEVE AND RUSH OVER THERE!

SOON, AT THE ORPHANAGE...
WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR COMING, ZATANNA! THE KIDS ARE SO EXCITED YOU'RE HERE--THEY CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU PERFORM!
IT'S A PLEASURE TO HELP GOOD PEOPLE LIKE YOU! LINDA DANVERS WROTE ME AND EXPLAINED WHAT A GREAT JOB YOU AND MRS. BARTH DO RUNNING MIDVILLE!

A MOMENT LATER, ANXIOUS APPLAUSE GREETS THE SAUCY SORCERESS AS SHE STEPS ON STAGE BEFORE THE GLEEFUL ORPHANS...
YAHOO! ZATANNA'S HERE!
SEE! TOLD YOU SHE WOULDN'T LET US DOWN!
WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO FIRST, ZATANNA?

LET'S START OFF WITH SOMETHING SIMPLE! WHO CAN GUESS WHAT I'M GOING TO PULL OUT OF MY HAT?
A RABBIT!
A BUNCH OF FLOWERS!
SOME SCARFS!

EROM STAH!
WOULD YOU BELIEVE... MORE HATS?

OTSERP!
AND PRESTO-- ALL THREE OF YOU WERE RIGHT!
WOW! A TRIPLE SURPRISE!
FAN-TASTIC!
ISN'T SHE FABULOUS, DEAR? I DO HOPE MICKEY IS WATCHING!
OH, I'M POSITIVE HE IS! HE'S SOMEWHERE CLOSE... I CAN SENSE IT!
JUST ONE WAVE OF THE WAND... AND THE WATER IN THIS FISH BOWL SHALL TURN INTO A GEYSER!
THIS TRICK ALWAYS GETS ME A STANDING OVATION!
RESYEG!
?!? THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE!
LOOK-- SHE GOOFED!
SPLAKK
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING!
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DON'T BE STUPID, NEAL-- ZATANNA DID NOT "GOOF"! SHE PLANNED FOR THE BOWL TO SHATTER! IT'S PART OF THE ACT!
YEAH-? JUST BECAUSE OF YOUR GENIUS I.Q. YOU THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING, CISSY?

WISH CISSY WERE RIGHT... BUT THE MISTAKE WASN'T MY IDEA!
BETTER REDEEM MYSELF RIGHT AWAY!
YOU SEE BEFORE YOU A DECK OF CARDS--!

I TOSS THEM ABOVE MY HEAD... AS ONLY I CAN...

...AND THE CARDS WILL MAGICALLY RE-GROUP THEMSELVES...
...TO SPELL "ZATANNA" ON THE FLOOR!

ULP! WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE!?
HELP

PERPLEXED AND BAFFLED, THE MISTRESS OF MAGIC TRIES TO MAKE THE SHOW GO ON, BUT...
AND NOW, I'LL—
OOOPS!
FOR MY NEXT TRICK—
OHH!
CRACKK
AS THE CURTAINS HASTILY CLOSE A MOMENT LATER...
SO THAT'S ZATANNA! SOME MAGICIAN SHE TURNED OUT TO BE!
BOO! WHAT A LET-DOWN!
YEAH! SEEMED LIKE MOST OF THE SURPRISES WERE ON HER!
C'MON, NEAL! SOMETHING'S UP!
BACKSTAGE...
TOLD YOU SOMETHING WAS WRONG! LOOK AT HER!
ZATANNA! WHAT'S THE MATTER?
SOMEONE CONTACTING MY MIND... SOMEONE NAMED MICKEY!
MICKEY!?! HE USUALLY ONLY "TALKS" TO MR. AND MRS. BARTH!
I'LL GET A PICTURE OF HIM FOR YOU!
PICTURE? BRING HIM HERE!
IMPOSSIBLE, ZATANNA! MICKEY WAS THE VERY FIRST ORPHAN THE BARTHS EVER TOOK IN, A LONG TIME AGO! HE WAS LIKE A REAL SON TO THEM!
BUT NOT FOR LONG! HE WAS ABOUT MY AGE-- WHEN A TRUCK RAN HIM DOWN!
MICKEY'S BEEN DEAD FOR FIVE YEARS!

?!? THEN...HIS GHOST WAS COMMUNICATING WITH ME!??
MR. AND MRS. BARTH "TALK" TO MICKEY ALL THE TIME! THE REST OF US CAN NEVER HEAR HIM... BUT THE BARTHS DO!

DO YOU THINK MICKEY WAS MESSING UP YOUR MAGIC TRICKS, ZATANNA?
BE LOGICAL, NEAL! IT HAS TO BE HIM! NO OTHER EXPLANATION IS POSSIBLE!
THE QUESTION IS...WHY?

MAYBE THE CARDS CAN CLEAR UP THE MYSTERY! IF MICKEY TAMPERED WITH THEM ONCE...HE CAN DO IT AGAIN!

ONCE MORE THE 52 CARDS FLUTTER TO THE GROUND, EACH ONE GUIDED BY AN UNSEEN SUPERNATURAL FORCE, UNTIL...
IT'S AN S.O.S.!
PUT BOTH MESSAGES TOGETHER AND YOU'VE GOT..."HELP...THE BARTHS!"
WHERE ARE THEY? I KNOW THEY WERE IN THE WINGS BEFORE THE SHOW!
"THE BARTHS!"

BUT THEY'RE GONE NOW! AND COME TO THINK OF IT...THE ELECTRICIAN IS GONE, TOO!
ELECTRICIAN?

AT THAT VERY MOMENT...
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU!
AH, BUT YOU DO KNOW MY BOSS!

BIG MAX FENTON!
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIM NEXT WEEK... SO MAX HAD TO ARRANGE A LITTLE "ACCIDENT" TO KEEP YOU TWO OUT OF COURT! PERMANENT!
H-HE'S GOING TO ELECTROCUTE US--!
P-PLEASE... HAVE MERCY!
ELBAC TAOLF YAWA!
SUDDENLY, THE CABLE RISES UNDER ITS OWN POWER, AS...
ZATANNA!
WHAT PUT YOU ON TO ME?
A MAGICIAN NEVER REVEALS HER SECRETS, CRUMB--!
THINK ABOUT IT-- WHEN YOU WAKE UP IN A JAIL CELL!
BMURC--KCONK FLESRUOY TUO!
UHHH!
NEXT MOMENT-- AN INSTANTANEOUS ROUND OF APPLAUSE...
TERRIFIC SHOW, ZATANNA! THOSE TRICKS WERE YOUR BEST YET!
T-THANK THE STARS YOU FOUND US IN TIME!
THANK MICKEY, MR. BARTH!
AND UP ABOVE, ON THE EMPTY STAGE-- A DISCARDED PHOTOGRAPH SEEMS TO SMILE EVER SO SLIGHTLY...
THE END
NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT JAN. 23RD
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